career. The death of his friend Alexis by one stroke of
heaven's lightning tolled the knell of Luther's worldly career.
At once, he relinquished his studies aid became a monk.
The successive sight of an invalid, a corpse and a yogi
impressed in indelible characters on Gautama's reflective
mind the frailty and instability of the flesh and the strength
and perma iency of the spirit. His whole idea of the universe
around him and the world within him passed through
a complete circle of revolution. Overpowered by profound
sympathy for the suffering and agony of animal and human
life, he leaves an insipid, meaningless world behind him
and goes in quest of that heavenly beatitude which alone
can satisfy the thirst and the hunger of a restless soul and
emancipate humanity from the miseries of the thraldom
of the **self.**

Saint Tukaram also passed through a similar ordeal;
his path to glory lay through the same thorny tract. He v/as
cradled into religion by grief and care ; he learnt in acute
suffering, what he taught in inspiring song. His father,
mother, dear wife and tender son fast followed each other
to a lamented grave. To make the cup of his sorrow brimful,

famine set in; the business failed; mishaps visited him in
battalions. The remaining wife—for Tukaram was twice
married—greeted him only with abuse and reproach; and
in this vast wild of life he did not find a single redeeming
feature or one soothing companion. The world lay before
him it] its charmless monotony; this direless succession of
unnumbered woes completely disconcerted hi^ mind; and
he^ had nothing left but the native resources of his own self
to fall back upon. The soul at last rose triumphant; and
the intending aim of an All-guiding Providence was accom-
plished. Tukaram's soul embraced the feet of God with
thrice-sacred hallelujahs ; and reverence for the All-merciful
and practical love for His children became the sole concerns
•of his life.